



**ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL
GRADUATION/DROPOUT PREVENTION TASKFORCE**

October 15, 2013 @ 8:00 a.m.

**Executive Tower
1700 W. Washington
2nd Floor Conference Room
Phoenix, AZ 85007**

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Cathleen Barton, Patti Bertram, Rusty Bowers (telephonic), Dan Brown, Sam Leyvas, Amanda McAdams, Dr. Amy Schlessman (telephonic), Tom Tyree (telephonic), Carolyn Warner, and Chair Merl Waschler.

Members Not Present: Mark Dobbins, Pearl Esau, Maria Harper Marinick, Marv Lamer, Diane McCarthy, Dr. Kent Scribner, Darcy Renfro, Vince Yanez, and Dr. Jim Zaharis.

Staff Present: Rebecca Gau and Brad Schroeter

Call to Order, Welcome, & Introductions

Merl Waschler called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m. provided welcoming remarks and introduced the purpose of this meeting, which was to discuss the taskforce's recommendations.

Quorum was met at 8:18a.m. with the arrival of Carolyn Warner and Patti Bertram. Cathleen Barton moved for the approval of the September 17th, 2013 Task Force meeting minutes as presented. Patti Bertram seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Graduation Rate Recommendations

Rebecca Gau with the Governor's Office of Education Innovations (GOEI) updated the Task Force on the revisions being made to one of the Arizona Ready goals which is intended to highlight the role that community colleges play in post high school education. This coming full council (on the 11th of December) is set to vote on the approval of these changes.

Ms. Gau also provided the Task Force with an outline of six recommendation areas. The areas are Early Childhood, "Out of School Time" youth development programs, CTE / relevance, Education and Career Action Plan (ECAP), Career Pathways / business involvement, and Remediation / Dropout prevention / credit recovery. She then went through each area and addressed the details of several factors within each recommendation area.

The Task Force then engaged in a discussion primarily concerning CTE and Remediation opportunities, where the two can be bridged, and how far along different Task Force members were with respect to the implementation and development of relevant programs and policies.

Tom Tyree announced that this topic is top priority for him and that he along with many others are working diligently on getting things going as quickly as possible. Rusty Bowers stated that the process really needs to be kick-started so that it can regain some of its previous momentum and we can start to see more action being taken. Carolyn Warner pointed out that the amount of students enrolling in CTE classes has begun to decrease because of the rigor that is involved in them, which in turn highlights the importance of making sure that CTE classes retain their desirability (i.e. count as a 4th year math credit, etc).

Update: Graduation Rate Project

Brad Schroeter provided the Task Force with an update on the Graduation Rate Research Project. He explained that the general purpose of the project was to identify what the performing schools are doing that the underperforming schools are not (with respect to graduation rates). He went on to demonstrate how he selected sets of performing and underperforming schools by providing the Task Force with an example of one pair he had already constructed, highlighting the significant differences and similarities between them. He stated that he was in the final stages of selecting more pairs and that his next step is to contact those schools directly.

Council Comments

Chair Waschler announced the next meeting to be held November 13, 2013.

Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to address the Task Force.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Taskforce, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m.